

Chlidonias niger* (Black Tern)*Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** Aves (Birds)**Order:** Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)**Family:** Laridae (Gulls, Jaegers, Kittiwakes, Skimmers, Skuas, And Terns)**General comments:**

Since 2010, there have been only four known active breeding colonies. The 2014 statewide pair count was well below the 5-year (2010-2014) average of 75 pairs and the 10-year (2005-2014) average of 91 pairs.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Black Tern:Town Map: [Chlidonias niger Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Chlidonias niger HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**

Maine Status: Endangered

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority: NA****High Climate Change Vulnerability:**

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: High, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)

Understudied rare taxa: NA**Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Black Tern:**

Formation Name		Freshwater Aquatic
Macrogroup Name		Lakes and Ponds
Habitat System Name:		Lakes and Ponds Macrogroup - Unknown habitat system Notes: Forage over open water.
Macrogroup Name		Rivers and Streams
Habitat System Name:		Rivers and Streams Macrogroup - Unknown habitat system Notes: Forage over open water.
Formation Name		Freshwater Marsh
Macrogroup Name		Coastal Plain Pond
Habitat System Name:		Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Pond Notes: Nest and forage in freshwater marshes.
Macrogroup Name		Emergent Marsh
Habitat System Name:		Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh Notes: Nest and forage in freshwater marshes.
Macrogroup Name		Modified-Managed Marsh
Habitat System Name:		Modified-Managed Marsh Notes: Nest and forage in freshwater marshes.
Macrogroup Name		Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh
Habitat System Name:		Introduced Wetland and Riparian Vegetation Notes: Nest and forage in freshwater marshes.
Habitat System Name:		Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp Notes: Nest and forage in freshwater marshes.

Stressors Assigned to Black Tern:

Chlidonias niger (Black Tern)

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Fishing, kayaking/canoeing can cause enough disturbance to cause nest or colony failure or abandonment of habitat.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Dams and Water Management-Use

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Can contribute to loss of nesting habitat, but also can create habitat - depends on specific management regime of each water control structure.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Flash flooding and torrential rains can cause nest or colony failure, potentially resulting in no reproduction at that site that year.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Purple loosestrife and Phragmites spp. can displace preferred native emergent vegetation used for nesting.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Black Tern:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Marsh birds Guild:

Conservation Action **Category:** Survey and Monitoring **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Implement targeted surveys to better understand the distribution and status of this species and to help direct conservation actions to newly documented populations

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action **Category:** Habitat Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Work with landowners to maximize hemi-marsh conditions and maintain stable water levels.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Dams and Water Management-Use

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Work with landowners to develop and post signs or other strategies for discouraging recreational users from disturbing nesting birds.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.